



# Government of Jersey Response to Arcadis Hydrogeological Risk Assessment Report

## Overview

PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are a large group of over 12,000 man-made chemicals that have been used since the 1940s in everyday products such as firefighting foams, non-stick pans, water-repellent clothing, and food packaging. These chemicals don't break down easily, so they can build up over time in the environment and sometimes in people. Some types of PFAS have been linked to health risks, and PFAS contamination is now a global concern. In Jersey, the historic use of firefighting foam at the Airport has created a 'hot spot' of PFAS pollution. To better understand this, the Government of Jersey commissioned an independent study and risk assessment by Arcadis.

Arcadis, a world leading environmental consultancy, was commissioned by the Government of Jersey in 2022 to produce an independent Hydrogeological Risk Assessment Report (the "Report"), which the Government has made public within 10 days of receiving it. A small group of officers had early, confidential access to check its accuracy, prepare the Government's response, and plan for its release.

## Ministerial Response

### Immediate Response

The Minister for the Environment will now review the report's findings and recommendations to guide his next steps in managing the impacts of PFAS and developing an appropriate remediation strategy, both directly and with other stakeholders.

The Minister will commission further targeted monitoring to help inform data gaps, a key recommendation of the Arcadis report. In addition, the Minister has instructed officers to undertake a detailed programme of testing to help inform report four of the PFAS Scientific Panel.

Additional testing and monitoring will take place this summer to ensure the Government continues to monitor the fate and movement of PFAS from and around the airport site, to inform the PFAS Scientific Panel's report four, and further inform regulatory and remediation actions.

Officers are now identifying if any further properties are drawing water from boreholes in the updated plume area. Officers will make direct contact with the home or landowners of any impacted properties and provide individual environmental health advice. If you believe your property may be impacted, you can email [regulationenquiries@gov.je](mailto:regulationenquiries@gov.je).

The Minister is setting up a PFAS Steering Group to review the Arcadis report, advise on the Government's full response and help develop a PFAS remediation strategy. This group will bring together experts from the Government of Jersey, Ports of Jersey and Jersey Water.

The Minister has commissioned report four of the PFAS Scientific Panel, to look at PFAS in the environment. The Arcadis report will provide valuable insight in the preparation of this report. There will be a particular focus on water treatment and regulation, informing any future decisions for the

Minister for the Environment about whether stronger regulations or new treatment measures are needed.

## Detailed Response

Within a six-week period, the Minister for the Environment will consider the Arcadis report and prepare a detailed response, which will be made available on **Thursday, 12 June 2025**.

In Jersey, the Water Pollution (Jersey) Law 2000 and the Waste Management (Jersey) Law 2005 allow for regulatory actions when there is evidence that a pollution incident has occurred or is occurring. Before any action can be taken under these laws, a detailed investigation must take place to gather evidence.

The Arcadis report will be used to support ongoing investigation into the historic use of firefighting foam at the airport. At this stage, it would not be appropriate - or in the public interest - to share further details that could affect the investigation.

## Value of the Report

The hydrogeological survey provides an independent and comprehensive understanding of the current state of PFAS in surface water and groundwater around Jersey Airport. It has built on historic sampling and knowledge and includes sampling of a wide range of long and short chain PFAS's utilising certified analytical techniques and emerging methods to provide the best information to support the Government moving forward.

We have benefitted from the support of Arcadis, which is at the forefront of a global effort to assess and manage PFAS at impacted sites and within the environment. Their broad knowledge and experience on technical, scientific, and regulatory matters have ensured that this Report represents a best-practice approach to an issue that has moved beyond the immediate source of PFAS at the Airport and into surrounding groundwater and surface waters.

The report helps clarify the current extent of PFAS contamination, how it has changed over time, and how it may continue to move. It also outlines potential clean-up options for key areas affecting the public water supply, which will help shape future work with Ports of Jersey and Jersey Water.

## What does this all mean?

There is no immediate risk to the health of the broader population. The public water supply meets EU and UK standards for PFAS levels in drinking water. Steps have already been taken to minimise the impact on the public water supply. Jersey Water no longer draws from impacted water resources in the catchments of St Ouen's Bay and upper Pont Marquet. Properties supplied by boreholes affected by the hot spot area were offered connections to the main supply to prevent further exposure.

## End notes

Islanders who want to read the full Arcadis Independent Report can do so here. Islanders can find more information about PFAS in Jersey at <https://www.gov.je/environment/water/pages/pfas.aspx>.

The Hydrogeological Study and Risk Assessment Report cost £188,174 with a further £104,689 being spent on Lab Analysis costs.